

Records of the Committee on Public Works
RG.233.88.PW
88th Congress

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Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> | 3 |
| <u>Biographical/Historical note</u> | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents note</u> | 4 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> | 4 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> | 6 |
| <u>Bill Files</u> | 6 |
| <u>Committee Papers</u> | 6 |
| <u>Minutes</u> | 6 |
| <u>Petitions and Memorials</u> | 7 |

Summary Information

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| Repository | Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration |
| Title | Records of the Committee on Public Works |
| Date [inclusive] | 1963-1965 |
| Extent | 1.0 Cubic feet |
| Language | English |

Biographical/Historical note

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 established the Public Works Committee by combining the jurisdiction of four standing committees--Public Buildings and Grounds, Rivers and Harbors, Roads, and Flood Control. The four original committees retained their separate identities but were reduced to subcommittees. The jurisdiction of the Committee on Public Works was as follows: (a) Flood control and improvement of rivers and harbors. (b) Measures relating to the Capitol Building and the Senate and House Office Buildings. (c) Measures relating to the construction or maintenance of roads and post roads, other than appropriations therefore; but it shall not be in order for any bill providing general legislation in relation to roads to contain any provision for any specific road, nor for any bill in relation to a specific road to embrace a provision in relation to any other specific road. (d) Measures relating to the construction or reconstruction, maintenance, and care of the buildings and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institute. (e) Measures relating to the purchase of sites and construction of post offices, customhouses, Federal courthouses, and Government buildings within the District of Columbia. (f) Oil and other pollution of navigable waters. (g) Public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States generally. (h) Public reservations and parks within the District of Columbia, including Rock Creek Park and the Zoological Park. (i) Public works for the benefit of navigation, including bridges and dams (other than international bridges and dams)., and (j) Water power.

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Public Works for the 88th Congress include minutes and petitions and memorials, bill files, and committee papers. The committee created a subcommittee for Watershed Development, 86th-90th Congresses (1959-68), and special subcommittees include the Federal-Aid Highway Program, 86th-90th Congresses; and ad hoc committees established on Montana Flood Damage, 88th Congress (1963-64); and on Appalachian Regional Development, 88th-90th Congresses.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Bill Files 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

The bill files of the Committee on Public Works form the nucleus of the committee's records. For most Congresses the files are arranged by type of legislation--H.R., H.J. Res., H.Res., H. Con. Res., S., S.J. Res.--and thereunder numerically by docket number.

Committee Papers 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

Although the committee papers for any given Congress of the Committee on Public Works often include a separate section for the committee's publications (most of which are transcripts of hearings), none of these collections contain all of the publications shown for the committee in the publications checklist within the legislative calendars; but few exceptions of committee papers for the full committee consist of survey resolution dockets, executive communications, calendars, and copies of printed hearings.

Minutes 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

For the 87th-90th Congresses, the minutes of the Committee on Public Works greatly increase in quantity, since single-page sheets listing those present are affixed to transcripts of the meetings. Subcommittee minutes include those of: Subcommittee on Flood Control, Subcommittee on Roads, Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors, Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, Subcommittee on Watershed Development, Special Subcommittee to Study Civil Works, Special Subcommittee on

Petitions and Memorials

Federal-Aid Highway Program, Special Subcommittee on Montana Flood Damage, and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Appalachian Regional Development.

Petitions and Memorials 1963-1965

Scope and Contents note

For a typical Congress, such as the 88th Congress (1963-1964), memorials for the Committee on Public Works came from the legislatures of Illinois, Idaho, Washington, Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, Colorado, Maine, California, Alaska, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Florida. Subjects include requests for a water pollution field control laboratory; the renaming of a dam in honor of a deceased Senator; authorization and appropriations for the reconstruction of a jetty to breakwater standards; an increase in the federal portion of cost on federal-aid primary and secondary highways; the payment of non-federal costs in federally approved water projects; completion of a particular U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigation and the development of a favorable report; relocation of the Denver Mint; extension of the northern terminus of the Interstate and Defense Highway System in Maine; enactment of flood control appropriations for a particular county water agency; enactment of legislation extending financial aid to a State for purification of the waters of one of its rivers; and protection for the interests and rights of persons and villages affected by the Rampart Dam hydroelectric project (88 PW.3). Petitions in the 88th Congress oppose the proposed removal of responsibility for water pollution control from the U.S. Public Health Service; request a flood control project along Pinal Creek in Arizona; naming of a bridge in honor of Estes Kefauver; establishment of a mint in Chicago; and financial aid for sewage and pollution control (88 PW.3).

The calendars also include complete listings of petitions and memorials, showing the date they were referred to the committee, by whom (most often the Speaker of the House), and the subject matter. The actual petitions and memorials, invariably 4 or 5 inches of documents per Congress, have each been placed within separate envelopes on which basic descriptive information has been written. For most Congresses memorials (generally documents from State legislatures) and petitions have been grouped in separate sets of roughly comparable size, each arranged in chronological order.